

Bay Delta Chronology

1970s -1994 “It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.”

1976 – 1977	Drought (1977 was driest year on record)
1978	State Board adopts WQCP (D-1485); EPA conditionally approves
1982	Peripheral Canal Initiative rejected by voters
1986	D-1485 is challenged; Racanelli decision upholds State Board regulation of water appropriators
1987 – 1992	Drought
1989	EPA refers Central Valley Project contracts to CEQ under NEPA
1990	NMFS lists winter-run chinook salmon as threatened under ESA
1991	State Board adopts limited 1991 WQCP
Sep 1991	EPA disapproves limited 1991 WQCP as not meeting requirements of CWA
Oct 1992	Federal Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) adds fisheries restoration to CVP
Mar 1993	USFWS lists delta smelt as threatened under ESA
Apr 1993	State Board withdraws draft water quality control plan
Jan 1994	EPA proposes water quality standards for the Bay Delta
Jun 1993	Club FED (EPA, USFWS, NMFS, and USBR) formally organized
Jun 1994	Framework Agreement between State and Club FED to cooperate on WQS, water operations, and ESA. CalFed born.
Dec 1994	Bay Delta Accord. State/Federal/Stakeholder truce on WQS/ESA/CVPIA
Jan 1995	EPA finalizes water quality standards for Bay Delta

1995 – 2003 “From Rags to Riches”

1995	CalFed Bay Delta Program long term planning effort begins. Citizen Advisory Committee formed
1996	State Prop 204 passes. \$490 million for ecosystem restoration
1996	Federal funded authorized for 1998-2000
Aug 2000	CalFed Bay Delta Program ROD proposes \$8 billion program in first 7 years
Nov 2000	Prop 13 passes. Targets water quality and watersheds.
Jan 2001	Change of Federal Administration
Nov 2002	Prop 50 passes. Targets water quality projects. Combined, Props 204, 13 and 50 made up to \$3 billion available for “CalFed projects”. Cumulative Fed support around \$700 million.
Jan 2003	California Bay Delta Authority formed as state entity; feds non-voting members, met until 2007
2003	Federal authorizing legislation

2004 – 2006 “A Series of Unfortunate Events”

Oct	2003	Change of State Administration
	2004	Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) publicized; POD Science effort begins
Jun	2004	Jones Tract levees collapse costing state >\$100 m
Aug	2005	Hurricane Katrina highlighted risk of infrastructure below sea level
	2005	CalFed unsuccessfully recommends a Long-term Finance Plan embodying “beneficiaries pay” principle
	2005	State cuts CalFed funding and orders outside reviews
Nov	2005	KPMG/Dept of Finance “audits”: Program not meeting ill-defined goals ~ Many lawsuits, mostly re: ESA
Nov	2005	Little Hoover Commission: Governance a failure
Feb	2007	PPIC Report: CalFed failed
Fall	2007	First phase of CalFed ends with conclusion that Delta conveyance isn’t working

2006 – Present “A Perfect Storm”

Sept	2006	State’s “Delta Vision” initiated by Governor’s Executive Order
Dec	2006	Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) process initiated to develop an HCP/NCCP covering export operations under state and federal ESAs
	2007	Three year drought begins in California - ongoing
Aug	2007	Judge issues Interim Protections in lawsuit against FWS BO on export operations
Apr	2008	Judge invalidates NMFS BO on Export Operations
July	2008	SWRCB, RWQCBs 1 and 5 issue Bay Delta Strategic Workplan
Dec	2008	Delta Vision Strategic Plan released endorsing a Peripheral Canal
Dec	2008	New FWS BO on Project Operations - Significant Restrictions on Exports
	2009	SWRCB conduct Periodic Review of its Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan
June	2009	New NMFS BO on Project Operations - Additional Restrictions on Exports